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TO: Commissioner for Patents
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FROM: Brendan J. Hanley

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Total pages, including cover letter: **9**

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Documents Transmitted: Reply and Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
Applicant: Boutaghou et al
Serial No.: 09/897,779
Filed: June 29, 2001
Group Art Unit: 2653
Our Ref. No.: 9780.00

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PATENT APPLICATION
RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116
EXAMINING GROUP 2600

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re App:	Boutaghou et al.	Date:	January 20, 2004
S.N.:	09/897,779	Docket No.:	STL 9780.00
Filed:	June 29, 2001	Examiner:	Allen Heinz
For:	BI-LEVEL CAVITY FOR A SLIDER AIR-BEARING SURFACE	Art Unit:	2653

REPLY AND AMENDMENTS UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant submits the following response 2 months from the Office Action dated November 17, 2003. For the reasons detailed below, the pending claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance.